

REMARKS

Claims 33, 38, and 44 have been amended to clarify what Applicant regards as the invention. Amendment to dependent claim 36 is to bring this claim in conformity with the language of its base claim. No new matter has been added.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 33, 35, 37-39, 42-46, 48, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,634,928 ("Fischell").

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for providing a diagram to clarify the basis of the § 102 rejection. In view of the diagram, and in an earnest effort to distinguish the claimed subject matter from Fischell, claim 38 has been amended to recite a coupling portion having a distal *end* that is proximal to a distal end of a coil. Claims 33 and 44 each recites a similar limitation. Fischell does not disclose or suggest such a catheter. Rather, Fischell discloses a catheter having a distal section 16 and a stent 40 attached to the distal section 16. However, the distal end of the section 16 is distal, and not proximal, to the stent 40 (See figures 4G1, 4G2, and 4H). For at least the foregoing reason, claims 33, 38, and 44 and their respective dependent claims 35-37, 39-43, and 45-49 are believed allowable over Fischell.


CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, all remaining claims are believed in condition for allowance. If, the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, please contact the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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